

INFORMATION REPORT
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REPORT NO.

COUNTRY Italy/USSR

SUBJECT SIELE Mining Establishment

25X1A

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1. The SIELE mining establishment at Piancastagnaio in the province of Siena, is exclusively devoted to the mining of mercury. This establishment, including the annexed mines, employs about 380 persons. Almost all of the workers are members of the Italian Communist Party and reside in the nearby zones of Castellazzara and Santa Fiora. They reach the places of work by trucks placed at their disposition by the management of the establishment. Monthly extraction of the mineral averages about 40 tons. The sale of this product in Italy is permitted freely, while abroad it is controlled through the Mercurio Europeo which is a "cartel" between Italy and Spain. The headquarters of the Mercurio Europeo is in Rome under the general management of the Monte Amiata Company.
2. In November 1949, negotiations were concluded for the purchase on the part of the Soviet Government through the Russian Embassy in Rome of about 70 tons of mercury furnished by the SIELE mining establishment. In December 1949, the material was consigned in flasks at the port of Genoa for shipment to Russia.

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